

# Return to Use Initiative

## 2007 Demonstration Project

### Red Oak City Landfill:

Red Oak, Iowa

**THE SITE:** The Red Oak City Landfill site is an inactive municipal landfill located in an old limestone quarry in Red Oak, Iowa. The site comprises 40 acres, 20 of which were used for waste disposal. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and heavy metals from landfilling practices contaminated soil, sediment, surface water, and ground water. The landfill was closed in 1974, and EPA added the site to the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1989. The remedy for the Red Oak Landfill site included capping of contaminated soils and wastes on site, construction of diversion and drainage structures, and contouring and revegetation of the bank of the adjacent East Nishnabotna River. Access controls, in the form of fences and signs, were installed, and institutional controls were placed on the site. Ground water monitoring was instituted and is on-going. The site was deleted from the NPL in 2005.

#### Barriers:

Maintaining communication between the local AMA club, the City of Red Oak, and EPA to ensure reuse does not affect the remedy

#### Solution:

Possible cooperative agreement between the City and a model aeronautics club to enable reuse

**THE OPPORTUNITY:** The City of Red Oak owns the property. A local Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) club has expressed interest in using the site as a flying field for model airplane enthusiasts.

**THE BARRIERS:** Concerns about the effect that the club's use of the site may have on the integrity of the cap, the site's ongoing maintenance, and the limitation of site access in accordance with institutional controls will all need to be addressed to ensure that the remedy remains protective. Establishing and maintaining clear lines of communication between the interested AMA club, the City of Red Oak, and EPA will be key to ensuring that reuse of the site does not impede the remedy.

**THE SOLUTION:** EPA will work with the City of Red Oak and the AMA club to determine which portions of the site are suitable for use by club members. A cooperative agreement between the City and the AMA club would make it possible for the club to use a designated part of the site as a flying field in exchange for performing minor maintenance activities such as grass cutting and fence repair. The resulting solution would benefit both parties, creating a new flying field for club members and providing a responsible site steward for the community. EPA will also work with the City to explore other possible reuse scenarios that are deemed suitable for the site, if the local AMA club is unable to utilize the site.

**THE SITE NOW:** The landfill surface is in good condition. Institutional controls and fencing are in place to limit access and inappropriate future uses of the site. It is possible that an AMA club could be flying model airplanes on the site in the future.

#### Before:

Underutilized, cleaned up landfill

#### After:

A portion of the site could serve as a model airplane flying field

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Robert Weber, Remedial Project Manager, at (913) 551-7918 or [weber.robert@epa.gov](mailto:weber.robert@epa.gov); or Tonya Howell, Region 7 Superfund Redevelopment Coordinator, at (913) 551-7589 or [howell.tonya@epa.gov](mailto:howell.tonya@epa.gov).